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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALGIER 03139 212134Z

67
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 071382
O P 211950Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3212
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBAUIY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T ALGIERS 3139

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SS, US, TS
SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: MEETING WITH TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY

1. DURING A GENERAL CONVERSATION OCTOBER 20 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY, HE COMMENTED AT SOME LENTH ON TUNISIAN ASSESSMENT OF SPANISH SAHARA SITUATION. THE GIST OF HIS ANALYSIS WAS AS FOLLOWS.

2. MAURITANIAN-MOROCCAN AGREEMENT TO PARTITION THE SAHARA WAS RESULT OF INITIATIVE BY TUNISIA, WHICH BELIEVED THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE A NEW, UNVIABLE STATE CREATED IN THE AREA. DURING BOUTEFLIKA VISIT TO RABAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT ALGERIA WOULD ACCEPT THIS ARRANGEMENT IN RETURN FOR RATIFI-CATION BY KING HASSAN OF AGREEMENT ON MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN BORDER. HASSAN, HOWEVER, DID NOT CARRY OUT THIS AGREEMENT, AND ALGERIA IS NOW BASING ITS POSITION ON PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION HASSAN'S DECISION TO TAKE HIS CASE TO THE ICJ WAS A RACTICAL ERROR SINCE IT CLEARLY
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INPLIED THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT THE ICJ OPINION. ONE DOES NOT

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GO TO ARBITRATION IF ONE FEELS ONE HAS A LEGITIMATE CLAIM.
THE ICJ DECISION, BY GIVING A LITTLE TO EVERYBODY, HAD ONLY
COMPLICATED THE SITUATION. MAJORITY OF UN WILL FAVOR
REFERENDUM IN SAHARA. SPAIN HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO
SUPPORT UN-APPROVED SOLUTION OR TO ASK SECURITY COUNCIL TO
APPROVE UN TRUSTEESHIP FOR THE SAHARA. MOROCCO
CANNOT ACCEPT A REFERENDUM WHICH WOULD LEAD TO AN INDEPEN-
DENT SAHARA. IF KING HASSAN NOW BACKS DOWN ON MARCH,
HE WILL BE IN MORE TROUBLE THAN HE HAS EVER
BEEN IN BEFORE. IN CHATTY'S OPINION, SITUATION HAS PROBABLY
ALREADY GONE BEYOND THE POINT WHERE A SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND.
HASSAN MIGHT POSTPONE HIS MARCH ON THE SAHARA IF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL ASKS HIM TO, BUT THIS IS NOW DOUBTFUL.
IN BRIEF, CHATTY'S CONCLUSION WAS THAT MATTERS HAVE
PROBABLY GONE BEYOND THE POINT OF NO RETURN AND EVENTS WILL
NOW TAKE THEIR OWN COURSE. WHILE BASICALLY SYMPATHETIC TO
MOROCCAN OBJECTIVES AND SUSPECIOUS OF ALGERIAN MOTIVES,
CHATTY BELIEVES KING HASSAN HAS PALYED HIS CARDS BADLY AND
IS NOW IN A SITUATION WHICH LEAVES HIM NO APPARENT OUT.
PARKER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEE.

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